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ALUMNI COLUMNS

Northwestern State University

Summer, 1977

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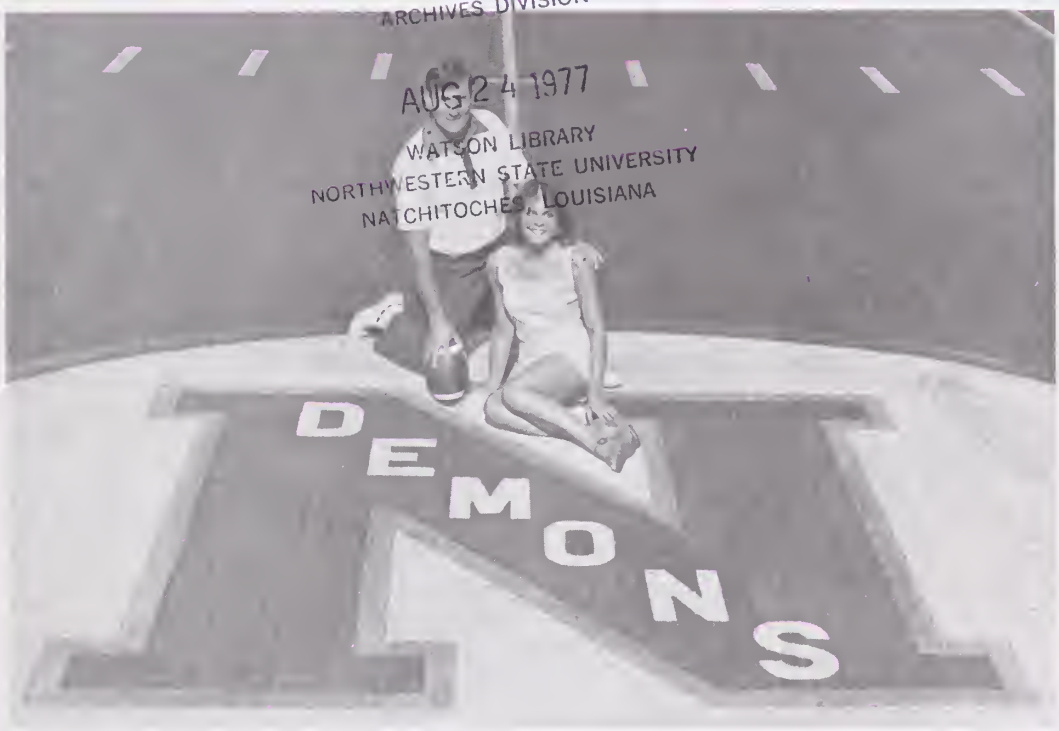

Turpin Stadium Dedication Sept. 3, 1977

The Alumni Columns

Official Publication Of
Northwestern State University
Alumni Association
Natchitoches, Louisiana
Organized in 1894
A member of the American Alumni Council
Volume XXXVI Number 4
Summer, 1977
Published quarterly in October, December, March and May by Northwestern State University. Editorial offices located in Room 21 of Bullard Hall.
Entered as second-class matter under Act of August 4, 1912.

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NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

Office of the President Natchitoches, LA 71457

Dear Former Athletes:

On Saturday, September 3, 1977, the new Harry "Rags" Turpin Stadium on the campus of Northwestern State University will be formally opened. This 15,000 seat stadium will be a fitting tribute to an outstanding gentleman and an excellent coach.

The faculty, staff, and administration of Northwestern invite each former athlete and spouse to be guests of the University for this occasion. A special section of the new stadium will be reserved for former athletes an you will be admitted, without charge, to the game. A very special invitation is extended to all former athlet who served under Coach Turpin. It is our hope that all you will be able to attend these ceremonies as guests of the University.

Our desire would be to contact each of you and to extend a personal invitation. Time and numbers make this impos sible. All of us, however, look forward to sharing this time with you and to the renewing of old acquaintances. We hope that you will be able to come home to Natchitoches and join with us in honoring a gentleman who contributed so much to Northwestern and to the State of Louisiana.

If you plan to spend this time with us, please drop us a note so that we may be able to plan accordingly.

Your support of Northwestern is always appreciated. We look forward to seeing all of you on September 3, 1977.

Sincerely,

Arnold R. Kilpatrick

Arnold R. Kilpatrick
President

THE COVER: The Cover of this special edition of the Alumni Columns shows at top Northwestern head coach A. L. Williams and Bossier City student Mary Lyn Bartek in the center of the Astroturf field at the school's new Turpin Stadium. In the center of the field is a huge purple and white university emblem. At the bottom is a photograph of stadium construction taken in late July. The stadium is scheduled for completion in time for the season opener and dedication ceremonies Sept. 3.

Dedication of New Turpin Stadium Will Be Sept. 3

After half a decade of planning and more than two years of actual construction, Northwestern State University will see a dream come true Saturday night, Sept. 3, with the official opening and dedication ceremonies of the new Harry "Rags" Turpin Football Stadium.

Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards and a large contingent of local, area and state political figures will be on hand for the dedication and for Northwestern's season-opening contest with the University of Texas-Arlington. Ceremonies are scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m. with the game scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

The 16,000-seat stadium bears the name of one of the state's most illustrious sports figures. Coach Turpin, who died in 1974 following a lengthy illness, served for 30 years on the Northwestern coaching staff before retiring in 1956.

Included among the special honored guests will be all former Demon football players and track performers who played under Turpin during his 22 years as head coach at NSU. Also to be honored at halftime ceremonies will be members of Turpin's family.

Special guests for the ceremonies will include state senator Don Kelly and representative Jimmy Long, both of Natchitoches, as well as other members of the state legislature, all area school superintendents and secondary school principals, members of the state Board of Regents and the state Board of Trustees, city and parish governing officials, and all former Demon athletes.

Dr. C. B. Ellis, assistant to the president and director of external affairs, is in charge of the opening ceremonies.

The new structure, which was partially completed and was used during the 1976 season, replaces ancient Demon Stadium as home of the Northwestern football team. The east side and the lower deck of the west side were in use last season.

Turpin, who will be honored with a plaque displayed prominently in the stadium, served as an assistant coach for eight years before being named head football coach in 1934. He had the longest tenure of any head football coach in the history of the university, and his crowning achievement came in 1939 when the Demons put together an 11-0 record, one of only two unbeaten football teams in school history.

Ironically, old Demon Stadium was completed in 1939. The old stadium, which at one time also housed students, had been improved very little since original construction, with the exception of theatre-type seats which were installed several years ago.

The greater part of the old stadium is still intact and serves as the lower deck of the new facility. It has also been renovated during the construction process.

The east side, which is utilized by students, will seat 5,923 fans. The double-deck west side, one of only a handful of double-deck stadium facilities in the state, will have a capacity of over 10,000, and between the two decks is a glassed-in area for visiting dignitaries, school and athletic officials and members of the Demon Booster Club.

Governor Edwin Edwards

A new multi-level press box sits atop the upper deck and has room for 166 media members and other game workers.

One unique aspect of the new stadium is its Astroturf field, one of only three artificial surface fields in the state and the only outdoor one used by a collegiate football team. The other two fields are located in the Superdome and in the Sugar Bowl, both in New Orleans.

Another added feature of the new stadium is the artwork on the synthetic surface. Painted by the Northwestern football coaches, the two end zones feature the words "NORTHWESTERN" and 'LOUISIANA" in white with purple and orange trim.

At midfield is a 20-yard wide figure of NSU's football helmet, shown with the large purple "N" with "DEMON" written within. The midfield scene is pictured on the cover of this Alumni Columns.

Lighting in the stadium has also been improved more than double over the old system, enough to where color television can originate from the field.

The total cost of the stadium renovation is $4,812,600 and is only a part of the total renovation of the NSU athletic plants. A 28,000-square foot fieldhouse for NSU athletic teams is planned for completion by 1978 and will be located at the south end of Turpin Stadium to give Northwestern one of the best stadium-field house facilities in the entire South.

Also planned for the near future are the completion of the almost-finished track facility, tartan surfacing for Prather Coliseum, additional tennis courts and expansion and renovation of the university's baseball facilities.

Harold Pique and Associates of New Orleans was the architect of the stadium project, and Tudor Construction Co. of Alexandria was the contractor.

The all-new Harry "Rags" Turpin Football Stadium is only a part of the total renovation of the Northwestern athletic plant. Construction is almost completed on the new all-weather track facility, and work will soon be begun on a field house and athletic office complex.

The field house, which will be located at the south end of the stadium, will house dressing rooms for football and most of the spring sports, along with weight rooms, training rooms, film rooms, offices for athletic administrators and coaches and other areas. The two-story facility will cost over $1.7 million and is scheduled to be completed in time for the 1978 football season.

The track facility has a nine-lane synthetic track surface and is unique in that all the field events take place within the confines of the track itself. Spectators in the stands can view all of the events from one seat. The facility also includes concession areas, rest rooms and a press area.

Other future plans for the NSU athletic complex include the pouring of a tartan surface in Prather Coliseum, a renovation of Stroud Baseball Field to include new dugouts, grandstands and restroom facilities, and the expansion and renovation of the university's tennis facility.

Season Tickets In Turpin Stadium Now On Sale

Four different ticket options will be available to Northwestern State University football fans during the 1977 season, according to NSU athletic director George Doherty and athletic business manager Harrel Haile.

Regular season tickets, family plan tickets, VIP seats and general admission tickets will all be available in the all-new Harry "Rags" Turpin Stadium, a 16,000-seat structure which will be formally dedicated Sept. 3 when the Demons host the University of Texas-Arlington in the season opener.

NSU will play five home games in Turpin Stadium against one of the strongest home schedules in recent history. Arkansas State will visit the Demons on Sept. 17 prior to the Homecoming matchup with Northeast La. on Oct. 1. Lamar University will visit on Oct. 15 before NSU closes its home schedule against McNeese State on Nov. 5.

The most popular ticket option available is the reserved seat section, which covers the entire lower deck of the double-deck west side with the exception of sections on each end. These seats, which make up the majority of old Demon Stadium prior to the new construction, are $25 for the five home games or $5 per game.

A new feature this season is the family reserved seat section, which consists of six sections in the middle of the new upper deck. These enable a family to sit together at reduced cost while retaining the privilege of mid-field reserved seats. Tickets for the five home games are $25 for adults and $10 for students, or $5 and $2 per game.

The much-talked-about VIP seats are available only to members of the Demon Booster Club. Located in a glassed-in, air-conditioned and heated area between the upper and lower decks, the VIP area will feature refreshments and other benefits. It will be reached by elevator, and persons holding VIP seats will have special parking privileges.

The price for VIP seats are $150 per seat for the season with $125 of that amount going directly to pay membership in the Demon Booster Club and the other $25 purchasing a season ticket for the five games in the box. Doherty requested that interested fans contact the athletic department as soon as possible because of the limited VIP seating available.

General admission seats will be sold on a game-by-game basis in the end sections of both the upper and lower decks of the west side. The entire east side, which seats 6,000 and is reserved for students, is also general admission.

Tickets may be purchased either by writing or coming by the NSU athletic department located in Prather Coliseum on the campus. Tickets will also go on sale at a later date in other Central Louisiana cities.

Stadium Named for Giant in NSU Athletic History

Harry H. "Rags" Turpin served for 30 years on the Northwestern State University coaching staff and held a 23-year tenure as head football coach, the longest tenure of any head coach in the 92-year history of the university.

A native of Tensas Parish, Turpin moved to Natchitoches as a youngster and was a standout athlete at Natchitoches High School and Northwestern before becoming an assistant coach at Northwestern in 1926.

Turpin became head football coach at Northwestern in 1934 and remained in the post until his retirement in 1956. During his coaching career, Turpin compiled a record of 99 wins, 90 losses and 12 ties for a winning percentage of .524. His 1939 team was one of only two undefeated teams in Northwestern football history and is generally regarded as one of the powerhouses in NSU football annals.

The 1939 team won 11 straight contests and held eight of its opponents scoreless. Turpin's team yielded only 18 points that season while winning the Louisiana Intercollegiate Conference and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championships.

Turpin was instrumental in the establishment of the Gulf States Conference and served as president and vice-president of the organization during his coaching career. In his final four years at Northwestern, Turpin held the dual positions of head football coach and athletic director.

In 1953, Northwestern won the GSC

Harry "Rags" Turpin

championship, and Turpin was honored as the conference's "Coach of the Year."

Few athletic scholarships were available at Northwestern during Turpin's coaching career, but he was regarded as an excellent recruiter nonetheless. Four of his players—Walter Ledet, Dudley Downing, Bob Tatum and Parker Wiggins—won All-American honors, and numerous others were all-conference.

Turpin served as head track coach during most of his tenure at Northwestern, and he produced some of Louisiana's most successful collegiate teams. Turpin established the Northwestern Relays in the 1930's, a meet which grew to become one of the top track and field events in the South.

The university gave Turpin the highest honor possible by naming the brand-new 15,522-seat football stadium facility in his honor. Harry "Rags" Turpin Stadium, with its artificial surface, will be totally completed by the start of the 1977 season.

Turpin is also a member of the Louisiana Sports Writers Hall of Fame and the NSU Graduate 'N' Club Hall of Fame.

Turpin died on Dec. 26, 1974, following a lengthy illness.

Turpin's widow, his daughters and grandchildren will be special guests of the university and the athletic department on Sept. 3 when Harry "Rags" Turpin Football Stadium is formerly opened and dedicated. Other activities for the family will also be planned during the day.

A plaque honoring Turpin will also be on display at the opening contest, when the Demons meet Texas-Arlington. Governor Edwin Edwards will unveil the plaque at halftime ceremonies.

Former football players and track performers under Turpin will also be in attendance as guests of the university at the game.

Alumni President's Message

By Mrs. W. A. Dial

They used to say up in Winnfield where I am from, "Blood is thicker than water." This meant that kinship, when it got right down to it, was more important than friendship. The same holds for those of us who are members of the Northwestern Family. I detect a growing sense of dedication to one another among Alumni of our university. With this mutual respect and affection comes the desire to assist one another. When family members are away from home there is a longing to return. We miss the fellowship and the opportunity to visit.

Mrs. Dial

For this reason, I extend to every graduate, former student and friend of Northwestern a strong invitation to return to the campus in Natchitoches for two special occasions this Fall. On Saturday, Sept. 3, dedication ceremonies for Rags Turpin Football Stadium will be held. You are going to be awed and impressed by this new facility which will contribute to the building of a stronger athletic program. Homecoming is Oct. 1, 1977, when we play Nortneast. Outstanding plans have been made for the 1977 Homecoming. We hope you will contact your Demon friends and join us on these two special occasions.

Just as the family has specific functions, so does our Alumni Association. The contribution we make to our school depends on the willingness of each of us to beeome more dedicated to one another.

1977 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Sept. 3	**Texas Arlington**	**Natchitoches**
Sept. 10	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
Sept. 17	**Arkansas State**	**Natchitoches**
Sept. 24	S. F. Austin	Nacogdoches
Oct. 1	**Northeast La.**	**Natchitoches**
Oct. 8	Nicholls State	Thibodaux
Oct. 15	**Lamar Univ.**	**Natchitoches**
Oct. 22	Louisiana Tech	Shreveport
Oct. 29	Open	
Nov. 5	**McNeese State**	**Natchitoches**
Nov. 12	Southwestern La.	Lafayette
Nov. 19	Southeastern La.	Hammond

All games 7:30 p.m. except Southeastern, which is 1:30 p.m.

Message from the President

by Dr. Arnold R. Kilpatrick, President
Northwestern State University

Coach Harry "Rags" Turpin meant much to the thousands of us who knew him at Northwestern. It is for this reason that we dedicate our new football stadium to his memory as a token of our appreciation for the contribution he made to us. You must see Turpin Stadium. It is the finest in the state and will contribute to the transformation of Northwestern through school spirit and superior programs that have implications not only for athletics but for academics as well. Please plan to join us for dedication Sept. 3, 1977.

Kilpatrick

The new stadium is not all that has been done to revive the landscape of your Alma Mater. When you return to the campus you will become aware that in the past 10 years $26 million in constructions has occurred. Your university, in the midst of all the challenges confronting higher education in the past decade, has survived and is on the threshold of reclaiming the place of educational excellence in leadership that has been characteristic of Old Normal and Northwestern since 1884.

We all look forward to seeing you back on campus for stadium dedication September 3 and Homecoming on Oct. 1.

Demons Open Fall Drills Hoping To Improve On 5-5 1976 Record

Filling holes in the offensive backfield and defensive front wall was the primary problem facing Northwestern State University head coach A. L. Williams when he weleomed approximately 88 players for fall workouts.

Williams made the call for troops on Thursday Aug. 11. Two-a-day practices were scheduled until the opening of the fall semester Aug. 24.

The Demons lost a total of 14 seniors, including the entire offensive backfield and all but one of the defensive front five, to graduation from the 5-5 squad of 1976. All is not quite so bleak, though: 38 lettermen return, and among those is a great deal of size and talent.

"We're going to be really strong in some areas," Williams said, "put there are several areas that we're going to have to count on young and untested people to do the job. We came a long way last season, and it will be tough to match last year's improvement."

The Demons did come a long way last season after two conseeutive 1-10 campaigns, and most of the credit for the progress goes to departed fullback Sidney "Thundering Bull" Thornton, who rewrote NSU's rushing record book and was a standout in several post-season all-star games before becoming a second-round draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

One area Williams can look to with pride is the receiver corps, which has the four top receivers back from last season and added several outstanding recruits. Wyamond Waters (6-1, 180) and Mike Almond, (6-2, 192) both juniors, should become NSU's all-time receiving leaders during the next two years, with Waters grabbing 23 passes for 469 yeards and five TD's last season. Pat Collins (6-4, 200) returns as the starting tight end with 11 grabs for 197 yards.

Freshman sensation Mark Schroeder (5-10, 185) carried for 313 yards last season and will return as the starting tailback for his sophomore year. Sophomores Brett Knecht (5-11, 195) and Perry Neal (5-10, 175) will also push for playing time in the backfield.

The quarterback slot is uncertain, but Mark Rhodes (6-5, 224), a junior and Kenny Philibert (5-11, 180), a sophomore, will battle for the starting slot as NSU lost its two top signal-callers to graduation. The offensive line returns virtually intact with the loss of only one starter.

NSU's defensive front was ravaged by the loss of four starters to graduation, and only 6-foot-4, 265-pound junior tackle Willie Washington is back from last year's front liners. End Robert Brown (5-11, 220) and tackles Van Kyzar (6-2, 230) and Art Lancaster (5-11, 210) are likely candidates for starting berths.

Both starting linebackers, senior Roscoe Lewis (5-11, 210) and junior U. L. Finister (6-0, 205), return as NSU's leading tacklers last season. Both were mentioned on all-star squads, as was Willie Mosley (5-10, 175), the third leading punt returner in the nation last season.

Placekicker-punter Dennis Pendergraft, a junior, is back after averaging 38.8 yards per punt and scoring 24 points in 1976.

Radio, Television Network Planned

Northwestern State University football fans across the state will be able to tune into two different networks to follow the Demons during the 1976 season.

The NSU Demon Football Network, one of the top radio sports networks in the state, will once again canvas the state with live action on both home and road games. From flagship station KNOC in Natchitoches, the network will reach all corners of the state.

In addition to most of the stations which carried the Demons last year, the network has added KSLI-FM in Alexandria, a 100,000-watt station which is one of the most powerful FM stations in the entire South.

As he has for 24 years and the past 21 seasons in a row, Norm Fletcher will be the play-by-play "Voice of the Demons" during the 1977 season. Roger Williams, a former NSU football star, will serve as color commentator on the network for the second consecutive year.

The radio broadcasts will begin 15 minutes prior to game time for all 11 contests. In addition, the flagship station and some stations on the network will be carrying a pair of special pre-game shows starting 25 minutes before game time which will feature NSU head football coach A. L. Williams and members of the Demon football team.

An all-new feature this season is the NSU Football Television Network, which will feature taped replays of Northwestern road games and, possibly, selected home games. These broadcasts, the first of their kind in the area, were originated last year by the cable channel operated by Westside Baptist Church, and WSBC-TV's Channel 9 will be the originating station this year.

Games will be replayed at various times during the week following each road game on a network of cable channels that stretches from Shreveport to Baton Rouge. Local viewers will be able to see the games on Tuesday nights starting at 7:15 p.m.

Handling the play-by-play for the television network will be Jim R. Johnson, NSU's assistant director of informational services and public address announcer for Demon home games. Serving as color man for the broadcasts will be former NSU football star Richard Ware.

WAYNE McCULLEN (right), president of the Northwestern State University Demon Booster Club, presents a plaque to Natchitoches attorney Jack O. Brittain symbolic of him becoming the first "Grand Demon" in the Booster Club. The new "Grand Demon" category in the club is for those supporters who pledge $1,000 to the support of NSU athletics. McCullen said that the club's membership and fund-raising drive is running well ahead of last year and expressed confidence that the club would reach its goal of $40,000 this year.

Demon Booster Club Membership, Fund-Raising Drive Under Way

The Northwestern State University Demon Booster Club, a tremendous success in its very first year of operation in 1976, is currently involved in its 1977 recruiting and fund-raising drive.

Reorganized during the summer of 1976 by the consolidation of the old Quarterback Club and the Century Club, the organization is in charge of raising funds for the NSU athletic department. In addition, the club also sponsors special events throughout the school year both for its members and to help promote Northwestern athletics.

The Booster Club, under the energetic leadership of president Wayne McCullen, raised over $26,000 for the NSU athletic department during the 1976-77 school year, but McCullen said that the organization will not sit back on its laurels.

"We're aiming for at least $40,000 this year," McCullen said, "and I believe we will reach that goal very soon. There is a great deal of interest right now in Northwestern athletics, and I think people are excited about the year to come."

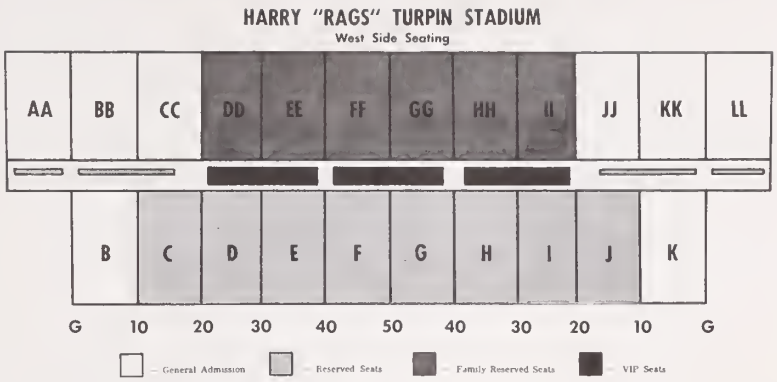
The club is divided into five sections: the Grand Demon Club for a donation of $1,000 or more, the Purple-White Club for a $500 donation, the Pitchfork Club for a contribution of $250, the Century Club for a $100 contribution and the Quarterback Club for a donation of $50. The Grand Demon Club is a newly-added group this year.

"We made some big strides during the past year," McCullen said at the annual organization banquet, "but we need to do even better this year with the opening of the new stadium and other parts of the athletic complex."

Benefits of the club include season tickets or the opportunity to purchase them before public sale in reserved sections, reserved parking, a plaque, a regular newsletter, copies of all NSU athletic press guides, mention in all programs and brochures, weekly luncheon meetings and other club activities. Members also have access to tickets in the new and prestigious VIP box in Harry "Rags" Turpin Stadium and will have a special area for meetings and gatherings in the fieldhouse when it is completed.

"We could not have done as many things athletically that we did last year had it not been for the efforts of the Booster Club," said NSU athletic director George Doherty. "Both in the area of finances and support, there is no way that we could have operated on as high a level without their help."

Membership in the club can be obtained or further information is available from either McCullen or by writing the NSU athletic department.



NSU FOOTBALL SEASON TICKET ORDER FORM

Quantity

_____ Reserved Seats (Sections C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J and box seats in the mezzanine section) —$25 per ticket for five home games.

_____ Family Reserved Seats (Sections DD, EE, FF, GG, HH and II)—$25 per ticket for five home games for adults, $10 per ticket for five home games for students.

_____ VIP Seats (Hell's Hollow, Demon's Den and Devil's Delight Sections)—$125 Booster Club fee per seat plus $25 per ticket for five home games.

_____ General Admission Seats (Sections B, K, AA, BB, CC, JJ, KK and LL)—Sold game by game, $3.50 adults and $2 for students. (Entire east side also general admission)

Total Number of tickets ordered _____ Total Remittance _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Tickets cannot be mailed unless check or money order accompanies order.

Return form to: Athletic Department, NSU,
Natchitoches, LA 71457

SECTIONS DESIRED

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

High_____ Low_____

	Yes	No
Ticket Holder 1976	☐	☐
Desire Same Seats	☐	☐

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Demon Booster Club

Enclosed is my Demon Booster Club tax-deductible contribution for:

$50 $100 $250 $500 $1,000

(Please Circle Amount)

I wish to pledge $_____ as my Demon Booster Club contribution for 1977.

Please bill me: ___Monthly ___Quarterly As follows: _____

Name

Address _____

_____

The Alumni Columns
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

Be a super Demon, give your 1977 tax-deductible contribution to the NSU Foundation. You may indicate the university program that you desire your gift to support.

Alumni Information Sheet

Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Social Security No. _____ Major _____ Degree _____

Check the appropriate boxes:

___ Please change my address to that indicated above.

___ I am enclosing $_____ as a 1977 tax deductible gift to the NSU Foundation to be used for

_____

___ Please contact the following student(s) who may be interested in attending Northwestern.

Student's Name _____

Address _____

High School Attended _____

___ I am interested in NSU Alumni Group Insurance.

___ Please send material about the Christmas-New Year Ski Trip.

___ Enclosed is $4.15 for NSU publication "Soldier of Good Fortune" by Ruth Cross.

___ I am interested in more information about the "50 Year Reunion."

___ Enclosed is $1.00 for NSU student publication magazine "Argus."

___ NEWS FOR THE COLUMNS

_____

_____

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Mail Today to Alumni Office, NSU, Natchitoches, LA 71457

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